

# **PSRSPC 2010 Report to the Legislature**

## **Executive Summary**

The Public Safety Communications Act of 2002 established the Public Safety Radio Strategic Planning Committee (PSRSPC). This committee addresses the need for an integrated public safety communication system capable of promoting interoperability among the state's public safety departments. In concert with local and federal public safety agencies, PSRSPC member agencies continue to make significant progress toward improving California's emergency communications interoperability.

In our 2009 report to the legislature, we outlined the following goals and objectives for the year and beyond:

- Continued focus on collaboration in addressing state-level communications needs, since achieving interoperability requires partnership among emergency response organizations at all levels;
- Refine the committee's formal governance structure to improve administration of interoperable communications to better support stakeholders, enhance technical collaboration, and ensure statewide adoption of common objectives; and
- Leverage existing and new funding sources to ensure sustained funding for maintaining and improving California's communications systems.

During 2009, we made progress in the following areas to support achievement of these goals and objectives:

1. Procured contractual support to develop a 10-year strategic plan for state communications systems which includes a phased approach of all PSRSPC member agencies.
2. Established the California Interoperability Coordinators Office (CICO). This office is responsible for the daily operations of California's interoperability efforts.
3. Continued the development of guidelines for remote site development, management, maintenance and documentation.
4. Captured and analyzed all PSRSPC member public safety communication capability assets through Communications Assets Survey & Mapping Tool (CASM).
5. Revised and implemented a statewide review process for the use of state held mutual aid (Interoperability) channels.

6. Developed protocols and a comprehensive collaborative process for developing a statewide interoperability field operational guide (Cal-IFOG).
7. In conjunction with the California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CalSIEC), explored strategies to meet the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) mandate that all non-federal public safety radio telecommunication systems migrate to narrowband systems by 2013.

During 2010, we will undertake activities necessary to support the progress made on these initiatives and act on implementation plans. Details of current and future activities are described below.

**Signature of Matt Bettenhausen**

## **Report Detail**

### **Strategic Plan for State Communications Systems**

In 2009, the PSRSPC tasked the Office of the State Chief Information Officer, Public Safety Communications Division (OCIO-PSCD) (formerly Department of General Services, Telecommunications Division) ) to prepare a report leading to the development of a 10-year strategic plan for the state's public safety communications systems.

The OCIO-PSCD began meeting with each PSRSPC-member agency to evaluate their needs and to develop strategic objectives that would lead to the development of the California Public Safety Communications Plan (CAPSCOM Plan).

When completed, the CAPSCOM Plan will evaluate the current status of the state's public safety radio systems, the individual needs of each of the thirteen PSRSPC-member agencies for agency-specific operability, the joint needs of state agencies for interoperability, and layout a roadmap for the future. The CAPSCOM Plan is scheduled to be completed in June 2010.

### **California Interoperability Coordinators Office**

In 2009, the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) established the California Interoperability Coordinators Office (CICO) to, among other responsibilities, coordinate voice and data interoperable communications across the State of California and to ensure that stakeholders throughout the State and public safety community are familiar with and involved

in interoperability efforts. The Cal EMA CICO was established in part to coordinate the implementation of the California Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (CalSCIP). The CalSCIP details specific goals designed to achieve the overall strategic vision of ensuring that, by 2017, “public safety first-responders and designated public service organizations operating within California are able to communicate in real time, across disciplines and jurisdictions, to respond more effectively during day-to-day operations and major incidents.” In addition the CICO will focus on the further identification of key stakeholders and interested parties who should participate in efforts to implement the CalSCIP and interoperability in general.

The CICO will provide continued support to the PSRSPC and the CalSIEC and maintain the CalSCIP. The CICO will reach out to identify stakeholders in the public safety community including local, regional, tribal, and state agencies, the Federal Government, and California’s citizens -- to keep them informed of interoperability activities and to leverage the current practitioner governance structures and relationships to create direct and tailored communications to public safety agencies.

### **Management of Remote Telecommunication Sites**

A majority of the repeater sites that form the backbone of California’s public safety radio system are located in remote areas and most of the sites house systems used by multiple individual agencies. California has yet to develop a process to coordinate funding for managing and maintaining each of these remote sites which have long been neglected and are in dire need of repair. Much of the infrastructure and equipment located at these remote sites are well beyond their intended design life and need replacing. There are mountaintop installations and remote site facilities that are not in compliance with Federal regulations with regard to the consolidation of vault structures. During 2009, the PSRSPC implemented guidelines to begin exploring methods to manage and maintain these sites in a coordinated and cost-efficient manner in compliance with federal requirements.

### **Analyze Public Safety Communication Capability Assets**

Capturing and analyzing the entire State of California’s public safety system capabilities and communications assets is an essential but tremendous effort. To facilitate an understanding of the current capabilities and equipment related to communications and communications interoperability, the California Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (CalSCIP) strategy recommends the use of the Communications Assets Survey & Mapping (CASM) tool to gather data on assets controlled by state, local, and non-governmental agencies in California. CASM provides an online inventory and visual display of communications assets in a given region, identifies existing interoperability, and highlights gaps between first-responder

agencies. As California's statewide database, CASM allows emergency response agencies to consolidate modifications and upgrade efforts to radio communications systems and eliminate duplicate funding requests.

In FY 2009, Cal EMA worked with the CalSIEC Planning Areas and the PSRSPC agencies to fulfill the CASM completion goal, facilitating CASM trainings and providing guidance and standards for the CASM entry. The PSRSPC members agreed on a goal of inputting the data into CASM by December 31, 2009 and established naming conventions for common/shared sites to prevent duplicate entries into CASM. As the database continues to be populated and kept current, California's public safety agencies will have access to a snapshot of interoperable communications assets statewide.

CASM support will continue to be an ongoing effort for the California agencies throughout FY 2010. Furthermore, a concerted effort will be made to interface any future capabilities assessment database with CASM to ensure information will not be lost nor efforts duplicated.



### **Use of State Held Mutual Aid (Interoperability) Channels**

On October 15, 2009, the CalSIEC, which includes PSRSPC member agencies, adopted a set of policies and procedures for the use of state held interoperability channels. The intent of the “Mutual Aid Frequency Request and Authorization Policy” is to establish procedures that will provide for a timely coordination, review, approval, and authorization of mutual aid frequencies. This policy provides that all new licenses are to be held by the State of California and managed by OCIO-PSCD. Additionally, the State will hold all new Interoperability channels that become available. The CICO will assist in the process by serving as the point of coordination for formal requests for use of state held mutual aid frequencies. Stakeholder organizations (including Northern California Chapter Association of Public Safety Communication Officials and California Public-Safety Radio Association) will be asked to assist in the technical compliance of applications and CalSIEC Planning Area chairs will be required to approve non-routine requests. Various Mutual Aid Plans will be revised to include the procedures included in the adopted policy.

### **Statewide Interoperability Field Operational Guide**

Cal EMA is coordinating the development of a statewide communications Interoperability Field Operations Guide (Cal-IFOG). Essential systems operation information will be compiled from existing sources as well as from input provided by California’s emergency response practitioners and officials. This information will result in the development of a “glove box” sized guidebook that enables emergency responders to seamlessly access communications systems throughout the State. The Cal-IFOG will provide a synopsis of statewide communications interoperability guidelines and the standard operating procedures from the statewide Mutual Aid Plans. It will also provide a guide to all statewide and national frequencies, maps, essential contact information across the State and throughout Operational Areas, important technical information, and helpful Incident Command System checklists and organizational charts.

The version 1.0 of the Cal-IFOG will be released in March 2010. The Cal-IFOG will be updated annually and expanded upon once the CASM database is further populated. In addition to the “glove box” version, a more comprehensive guide for Incident Communications Leaders (COMLs) and Communications Technicians (COMTs) will be developed in the future.





### **Statewide 800 MegaHertz Rebanding Project**

In mid-2005, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) began negotiations with Sprint/Nextel to initiate implementation of a complex multi-year transition plan to mitigate interference in the 800MHz spectrum designated to public safety. In late 2008, the Office of the Chief Information Officer, Public Safety Communications Division (OCIO-PSCD) commenced the 800MHz rebanding with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the California State Parks (CSP). The OCIO-PSCD has completed 11 CDCR's adult institutions; the remaining adult institutions and the five juvenile justice facilities will be rebanded in 2010. To date the OCIO-PSCD has completed the following Caltrans locations: Eureka, Redding, Sacramento/Marysville, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, Bishop, and Stockton. The OCIO-PSCD is in the process of rebanding two CSP Districts in the central coast. This rebanding effort should be completed in early 2010.

Those 800MHz public safety users residing along the border with Mexico are in ongoing discussions with the Mexican government. Until a border agreement is reached, 800MHz licenses in the border area will be conditioned on compliance with international agreements. Sprint/Nextel will bear the financial responsibility for the completion of any system modifications necessitated by any future international agreements.

### **FCC Narrowbanding Mandate**

The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has mandated that all non-federal public safety radio telecommunication systems migrate to narrowband 12.5 kHz systems by January 1, 2013. Most of our statewide public safety radio systems currently use 25 kHz-wide channels. Agencies that do not meet the deadline may experience loss of communication capabilities. Both the PSRSPC and California Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (CalSIEC) are

exploring strategies to meet the narrowband deadline. Although the migration deadline seems far off, a long lead time and aggressive planning is necessary to ensure compliance.

### **Testing & Exercising Interoperable Communications**

A key part of managing and maintaining an interoperable communications system is the testing of the system through interagency exercises. PSRSPC agencies participated in several exercises in 2009 which tested their ability to communicate across disciplines and between various levels of government.

A north coast tsunami response exercise was conducted in May 2009 and included participation by local, state, federal, tribal, non-profit, and utility organizations. As part of that exercise, the Department of Water Resources deployed and tested its three communications/coordination vehicles, one of which is seen below.



The annual Golden Guardian exercise, held in October 2009, involved many of the PSRSPC agencies. A primary objective of the exercise was to test communication and coordination across agencies in both field and operations center settings. As shown below, communication between state civilian and military responders was a primary component of the earthquake-themed exercise.



### **Mobile Interoperability Gateway Units (MIGU)**

The Mobile Interoperability Gateway Unit is a resource developed from collaborative efforts of several resources using Homeland Security Grant funds. It is California's newest resource for establishing interoperability among disparate public safety radio systems at the scene of major incidents. There are six (6) MIGU's , and operated by the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) that can be deployed from any one of its six locations around the state to support Operational Area public safety agencies requesting mutual aid for assistance with interoperable communications. Cal EMA staff and representatives from San Luis Obispo, San Bernardino, Colusa and San Mateo Counties established a standard memorandum of understanding (MOU) for policy, procedures and protocols for the new units. Recently, the MIGUs were deployed to support a Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) to test communications systems capabilities to support search and rescue activities.





## Legislatively Required PSRSPC Activities

Activity	Code Cite	Status
PSRSPC Meeting and Membership		<p>April 21, 2009  July 13, 2009- Strategic Plan Executive Kickoff (Host by OCIO)  August 15, 2009  October 15, 2009- Joint Meeting with CalSIEC  December 15, 2009</p> <p>PSRSPC supported by monthly Technical Work Group (TWG) and subgroup meetings</p>
Consultation with Organizations & Entities	8592.3 (a)	<p>PSRSPC members participated in the June 2009 CalSIEC Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) implementation workshop.</p> <p>Joint meeting with CalSIEC on 10/15/09</p> <p>Continued collaboration with listed organizations and entities</p> <p>Assistance with local agencies on development of mutual aid license process and Cal-IFOG</p>
Model Memorandum of Understanding	Government Code Section 8592.3 (c)	MOU for six gateway platforms finalized and approved
Equipment Purchases	8592.4 (a)	None
Equipment Waivers	8592.6 (c)	P25 Compliance waiver from Department of General Services, Building and Property Management Branch (DGS-BPM)
Budget Proposals	8592.7	Collaboration and consensus continues on allocations of state-level PSIC and IECGP grant funds
Annual Report to the Legislature	8592.6 (a)	PSRSPC continues to refine the essence of the Annual Report to better conform to the purpose and audience for which it is intended